

the awful aggregation of misery and ruin, of bitterness and woe, of injustice and oppression which clamored at her eternal gates to be avenged upon the civil and ecclesiastical monstrosities which sat in the high places of the earth.

Then the Lord awoke his servant, Christopher Columbus, and put his spirit upon him, and gave him no respite of quietness or rest until he had drawn aside the curtain of the seas and revealed to the enslaved nations this larger Canaan of the western hemisphere, this land of fertile valleys and flowing rivers; of abundance of bread and fruitful vines, which He had held in reserve to be the refuse of His afflicted ones; the home of freedom; the stronghold of liberty, where the loftiest aspirations and the noblest destiny of the race should be realized, where hope would be revived in the human breast, where civilization would rekindle her glorious fires, and progress drive her unhindered car from discovery to discovery, from triumph to triumph, as the marching ages unfold all the sublime possibilities laid up in God's great thought for man.

Brothers, it is one of the cherished doctrines of the Order that the Bible is the true, the only foundation of civil and religious liberty, not a Bible of human invention, but the Bible which God gave the world. How true is this in the light of history. Men and women left the homes of their ancestors, the land of their nativity and the graves of their loved ones, left all around which clusters the priceless heritage of loving recollection, the tenderest sentiments of melting affection, and journeyed into the lonely and perpetual exile of what was then a boundless wilderness beyond a well nigh boundless sea, in order that they might, unforbidden and unmolested, read that Bible as God intended that it should be read. The most powerful and populous States along the Atlantic coast were thus founded, because these Bible reading men and women were the kind of people who found States and empires. They came, these pioneers of liberty, reverently bearing the Holy Book before them. From these sacred pages they caught the inspiration and imbibed the heroism which made new nations to arise in the wilderness; built innumerable temples for God's free worship; founded and endowed great institutions of learning; established what the world had never yet seen, free schools for the children of rich and poor; built hospitals and asylums for the unfortunate; laid broad and deep the foundations of this great Republic; successfully defended it against all its foes; until to-day, as the result of all these labors we stand

among the mightiest though among the youngest nations of the earth.

Let us lay well to heart the lesson that all this progress and growth, all this greatness of past achievements and present magnificence, has its foundation in the kind of character which springs from the reverent reading of the Bible. What a pitiful spectacle it is to behold men who dwell secure and prosperous beneath the protecting aegies of this Book reviling its teachings with blatant and blasphemous tongue. In all honesty they ought to take up their abode with naked savages where there is no Bible, and from that no Bible standpoint spout their venom against the splendid civilization which owes its origin and existence to the Bible. Let us hope that as guests of Bible hospitality, in this beautiful house of enlightenment and culture which the Bible has built, they may yet learn what is due from the commonest considerations of decency, and the most universal sentiments of gratitude. Let us hope that the general providence of light which happily surrounds them may eventually penetrate the profound depths of their unfortunate ignorance; or if the case be worse, that the unusual and phenomenal hardness of their hearts may sometime yield to the loving kindness of the Lord. Brothers, let us not be among those who stalk into this treasure house of priceless gems, this picture gallery of glorified art, this palace of celestial beauty, this garden of fadeless flowers, only to seek what, to an evil mind, may furnish a theme for carping criticism. With eyes blind to all its beauty and heart insensible to all joys, heaven itself, to such a man, would be unwelcome and intolerable.

It is because we know as all the world knows that Bible men, such men as the Bible makes and as nothing beside the Bible ever made, created this nation, and built here the glorious shrine of human liberty; it is because we know as the world knows that this vast and marvelous national growth and national greatness, this wide empire whose flag salutes the rising and the setting sun, is the child of the great Reformation which gave the Bible to the common people; it is because we know that the future of this nation rests, as its history is founded, upon this God's Book, that we insist upon making it forever the corner stone of our public policy, that we demand its introduction into our public schools, so that the perpetuity of the republic may be forever assured, resting upon the rock upon which it was built by the fathers.

The world is strewn with the melancholy wrecks of once mighty empires,

once splendid civilizations, which in their time dazzled and dominated mankind. A vast river draining a continent deposits all its marvelous fertility upon a narrow valley, and out of that exhaustless soil, in the earliest dawn of history, sprang a civilization based upon material wealth. For centuries it swayed the world, but now all that is left of it are its gigantic tombs, and the crumbling monuments of forgotten cities, half buried in the desert sands. In a sunny little peninsula of southern Europe sprang up another civilization based upon intellectual culture, the development of the fine arts, the worship of beauty, the glorification of aestheticism. But long since it has vanished into the dim vista of tenebrous dreams. Its gods have flown from cloud capped Olympus, and its beautiful temples lie buried beneath the dust of the ages. On the banks of the Tiber sprang up yet another civilization founded upon military power, an empire whose armies swept the earth with the bosom of destruction. Like those which went before its crumbling wreckage encumbers the ground.

All these efforts of the pride and powers of man, all this labor of long and weary centuries, of countless generations succeeding each other on the feverish stage of life, and following each other into the dense shadows of oblivion, all this building of proud temples and magnificent palaces, of nations and kingdoms, of resplendent civilizations and puissant empires, failed utterly, and came to naught, and crumbled to dust for want of a true and enduring moral basis.

Neither Egyptian nor Greek nor Roman possessed an imperative code of morals. There was no Bible in their libraries, their temples or their homes, filled with a purity so transcendent, a motive so lofty, a law so wise and just, a wisdom so profound, a hope so glorious as to establish among men, in private character, in public sentiment, in national policy, the enduring principles of righteousness, of justice honor and equity; which would make licentiousness hide its shameful head, and break the arm of tyranny; which would raise up men and women in perpetual succession as the generations came and went, who themselves would be quite capable; were the occasion to arise, of creating new and enduring empires.

The world has long since learned the lesson that the security of a nation rests not upon the array external power, but upon the character of its citizens. It is a tremendous thought, and one which appeals to you and I and every American, that each one of us may contribute to th